

Red China's Farm Policy

operated under the second-stage socialist system."

Under these plans, the complete socialization of cooperative farms was not expected to be effected until the end of the third five-year plan in 1967. "But actually," he says, "private ownership of farm land virtually ceased to exist by the end of 1956."

In the writer's opinion, the progress of China's agrarian cooperative movement shows that the farmers "have always moved far ahead of the plans of the Communist Party and the central Government, thereby indicating that the 'free will of the farmers' was a prime mover of the movement."

Attention is called here to the fact that land nationalization preceded farm collectivization in the Soviet Union. "In China, however," the writer says, "land nationalization has not been carried out yet. In the case of the Soviet Union, private ownership of land had remained on a comparatively weak basis under the country's historical and economic circumstances with the result that land nationalization was effected with comparative ease, whereas in China, land nationalization was considered likely to cause misunderstanding among the farmers."

In the percentage of cooperative-operated farm land as compared with the total area under cultivation in the country, China is credited with 90 per cent, which is equaled only by Bulgaria in East Europe. Czechoslovakia follows with 84 per cent.

Poland and Hungary are lagging far behind, with their cooperative movement "just making a fresh start after their cooperative farms were virtually disorganized during the anti-revolutionary riotings in 1954," the writer says.

Attributing China's fast progress in the cooperative movement largely to the "historical characteristics of popular power and the leadership of the Communist Party," the article outlines the Peking regime's agricultural policy.

"In China," it says, "agriculture is rated as a potential force capable of speeding up the development of the whole setup of industry, instead of being regarded as an outmoded means of production."

Citing the "general line of socialist construction" approved by the Eighth Congress of the Chinese Communist Party last May, the writer points out that although priority is given to the development of heavy industries, emphasis is also laid on the "simultaneous progress of industry and agriculture."

Lastly, the article briefly reviews China's progress in "agricultural construction" and "industrial production" in the past.

HOW Communist China's agrarian policy differs from Russia's is the subject of an article appearing in the September issue of "Keisai Myoron." The writer is Ryuma Yamashita, a staff member of the China Institute of Japan.

Included in a 12-article symposium presented under the general heading: "How Far Socialism Has Gone," the article deals mainly with the agrarian cooperative problem in China as compared with a similar aspect of the European Soviet bloc's economic programs.

Another article in the same forum, contributed by Kazuo Yamashita, also of the China Institute, compares Red China's industrialization program with Russia's. The rest of the symposium is devoted mostly to economic surveys of the Soviet Union and some of the Soviet bloc nations in Europe, apparently with a view to showing where socialism now stands economically.

Claiming that the founding of the Communist regime in China in 1949 was the "greatest historic event" since the October Russian Revolution in 1917, Mr. Yamashita says the "socialist construction" of China has been, and is being carried out under circumstances distinctly different from those in Russia.

"In October 1949," says the writer, "a nationwide neo-democratic revolution was completed and the People's Republic of China was founded as a neo-democratic nation, to be

followed immediately by the launching of socialist construction to pave the way for the desired transformation of the nation into a socialist state."

The article then briefly reviews China's pre-revolution agrarian problem to show in what plight most of the agrarian population of China had lived and worked in the past centuries and what role they played in helping carry through the revolution.

"The neo-democratic revolution," the writer says, "was led entirely by the laborer class. But the main force of this revolution was drawn from the agrarian population, as Mao Tse-tung pointed out."

The reason was, he says, that the peasants formed an "overwhelming majority" of the nation's population and were "directly interested in reforming the production relations of old China."

"This," he says, "presents an outstanding contrast with Russia's February and October Revolutions, which were carried out largely by the laboring classes."

What characterizes the agrarian reform now under way in China is the cooperative movement in which private land ownership is relinquished gradually and voluntarily, according to the writer. In the first-stage cooperatives the land owners receive rentals in addition to their shares of cooperative revenues.

In the second-stage cooperatives, however, private owner-

ship is given up voluntarily for no other reason than that mechanized farming and better productive efficiency are made possible for a cooperative unit when the entire farm is operated under common ownership.

So the cooperative movement has continued to progress far ahead of the goals set by the central Government. In December, 1951, the writer points out, there were only a little over 300 first-stage cooperative farms throughout China.

Two years later, the number of cooperatives exceeded 14,000, which number increased to more than 100,000 by the autumn of 1954, whereas the goal set for the same deadline was only 35,000.

In July, 1954 the central committee of the Chinese Communist Party planned to boost the number of agrarian cooperatives by half a million from 100,000 to 600,000 during the following year, but actually they totaled approximately 670,000, or 70,000 above the goal, according to the writer.

By the end of 1950, the survey shows, 96.3 per cent of mainland China's agrarian families had joined cooperatives, most of which had advanced to the second stage in organization.

"It may be recalled in this connection," the writer says, "that in July, 1953, Mao Tse-tung's plans called for the completion of organization of the entire agrarian population into cooperatives by 1960 with one half of the cooperative farms

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